So ar as public lands are concerned, the area available is so limited that the problem in the State is not so much one of inducing people to settle down on them as of giving enough land to every person who asks for it. Lands already in the hands of private individuals and families are subject to constant sub-division and fragmentation owing to the normal operation of the laws of succession and partition governing the major communities. In the result, small holdings have become the predominant feature of land distribution in the State. Transactions in respect of lands and of rights over lands are numerous. Any restrictions on alienation will be regarded as a vexatious interference with the right of property.

18. The recommendations made by the Land Policy Committee are already engaging my Government's serious attention. It is my Government's desire in dealing with the Committee's recommendations, to simplify as far as possible the complex system of land tenures, to subject all lands to the basic tax system, and in all respects possible to bring into existence optimum conditions for the utilisation of lands and for increase of agricultural production. Government propose to introduce the necessary legislation to achieve this object.

LABOUR

19. My Government have always been keenly alive to the supreme importance of having a happy and contented labour population for the welfare and prosperity of the country. The Payment of Wages Act has been extended to the plantations in the State. The evils of payment of wages through middlemen and of annual settlement which are traditionally associated with the Plantation Industry will disappear as the result of the extension of the Act to the plantations. My Government have appointed a committee to recommend minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act for the Coir Industry. They propose to appoint similar committees for other industries also. Government will introduce minimum wages in agriculture at an early date. With the extension of the Industrial Disputes Act, and the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act to the State, an efficient machinery has been established for settlement of industrial disputes by conciliation or adjudication. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a general improvement in the income of the workers and the amenities enjoyed by them, as the result of the operation of these measures.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL AID

20. The anti-malaria campaign will be immediately extended on a State-wide basis. The B. C. G. campaign started in 1949 continues to make steady progress. Preliminary arrangements for the establishment of a Tuberculosis clinic in Trivandrum have been almost completed. A Public Health Engineering Section has been opened in the Public Health Department. It is my Government's intention that this Section should devote itself to all environmental hygiene programmes such as rural water supplies, waste and excreta disposal, housing, etc. My Government also intend to inaugurate in the near future a comprehensive scheme for improving rural water supplies.

21. There are at present 227 medical institutions of all grades under the Medical Department. A committee has been appointed to examine the question of the re-allocation of these institutions to suit them to local needs. A new hospital for women and children will soon be opened at Alleppey, in addition to the existing District Hospital. Liberal provision has been made in the Budget of the ensuing year for provision of the necessary equipment and staff to all hospitals and dispensaries. Works on the Medical College at Trivandrum are being completed according to schedule, and it is expected that the College can be opened in the next academic year.

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